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Helen

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: LI et al. Docket: 372582-00201(337138)
Serial No. 10/032,686 Examiner: VU, Quang D
Filed: October 23, 2001 Art Unit: 2811
For: **EXTERNAL POWER RING WITH MULTIPLE TAPINGS TO REDUCE IR
DROP IN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT**

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Commissioner for Patents
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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.143, and
PETITION FOR 2-MONTHS EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136**

Sir,

This paper is filed in response to the Restriction Requirement in the correspondence from the Examiner, dated June 16, 2003, the period for response to which is extended by the petition herein for extension of time by two months. This response is submitted concurrently with and should be considered in light of the preliminary amendment and the request to amend the drawings.

Petition for Extension of Time by 2-Months

Applicants hereby petition for extension of time by two-months, under 37 CFR §1.136. Grant of this petition is hereby solicited.

Traverse of Election-Restriction

Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement, and make provisional election as provided below should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement as final. The Examiner required Applicants "to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted." The Examiner indicates that claims 1-48 contain claims directed to 4 distinct species described, respectively in Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 and 5. From this statement it appears that the Examiner is focusing on and interpreting the Figures without the benefit of the specification. However, by focusing on the Figures the Examiner is misinterpreting the Applicants' disclosure as a whole and particularly the written description in conjunction with the aforementioned Figures.

To correct any misconception that may have arisen from consideration of the Figures alone, Applicants presented amendments to the specification and the Figures, subject to approval by the

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Examiner. In light of the written description, the illustrations of the integrated circuit structures in Figures 1 and 2 set the stage and provide the background for the illustrations of the invention in Figures 3-5. Figures 1 and 2 are now labeled with "prior art" designation as they show integrated circuit structures without the invention. Figure 3 shows principles of the invention in general and Figures 4 and 5 show embodiments of this invention. Accordingly, there is only one invention with several embodiments.

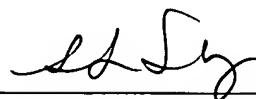
Moreover, in various degrees, independent claims 1, 22, 28 and 34, recite the invention as shown in Figure 3. Dependent claims 2-21, 23-33, and 35-48, recite various details and embodiments as shown in Figures 3-5. Accordingly, the claims recite only one invention. For this reason, Applicants present for examination, on the merits, claims 1-48. Hence, withdrawal of the restriction requirement, examination and allowance of these claims are hereby respectfully solicited.

However, should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement as final Applicants make the following provisional election of claims that best correspond to Figure 3: The provisionally elected claims are thus independent claims 1, 22, 28 and 34 and dependent claims 2-17, 23, 29, and 35.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account 50-2778.

Date: August 27, 2003

Respectfully submitted



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8)

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Date: August 27, 2003

by



Yvette Yurralde-Owen